

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

by  
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-71:5 P. M.  
1 January 1958

The story of Radio Free Europe and its affiliates and the so-called Crusade for Freedom, which is the fund-collecting organization which supports it. What I have said thus far is reporting by me--the fact is I have seen them and found them out. Tonight, I think it would be helpful to you to know something about the reaction that has been forthcoming and what other people in a position to add intimate first-hand knowledge of the facts and even first-hand experience have to say on this subject.

In the first place, in all the tremendous mountain of mail that I have received, and tremendous it is, I have yet to find the first letter that challenges or disputes anything that I have said over this microphone. The Crusade for Freedom, to be sure, has compiled a self-justifying statement, attempting to answer the facts that I have presented and attempting to deny the charges that I have made. This is to be expected. The paid money-raisers in that organization naturally want to protect their jobs because they never had it so good. They are living high indeed on the hog. Some of these self-justifying statements I already have answered over this microphone, as I did one of them last night. The others I will answer and debunk for you in the future, and I am compiling a complete answer to all of them, which I shall send to every individual member and officer of the board of directors of the Crusade for Freedom and the Free Europe Committee in the faint hope at least that they will re-examine themselves in the light of lending their names to the sponsorship of these operations.

In the meantime, I have turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation my entire file of information on the two organizations, with one lone proviso that, in a handful of cases in which individuals have asked that I protect the source of information, the names are being withheld by me. I might add that in no case of this kind has the information been unduly important or essential.

This mail, by the way, has not come from the United States alone. I have letters from South America and from Europe, as well; from people who have heard about this series and who have written in with comments or factual contributions.

But let me begin with a letter from Mr. John A. Buttar (sic) in Batatuba, Brazil. He says the following and I quote: "I myself protest against broadcasts to Czechoslovakia through Radio Free Europe by Czech refugees who once collaborated with Communists, bringing Czechoslovakia under Communist yoke and then took refuge in the United States or other countries. These people are making propaganda in behalf of their socialistic ideas of nationalization of industries and property of individuals, and they use Radio Free Europe for such propaganda. They wish to do themselves the same thing that has been done already by the Communists. What will the people of Czechoslovakia think of the Western world if they hear such propaganda through Radio Free Europe? Are the citizens of the United States willing to pay for such broadcasting and keep these people among them?" Very truly yours, John Buttar (sic).

And here is one from Dr. Joseph Geishka (sic) of Charta, Ohio, which is to me particularly important. Dear sir: "It was with great satisfaction that I was able to listen to your recent commentaries regarding the situation existing in the Czechoslovak division of Radio Free Europe. I was also pleased to hear you mention Mr. Ferdinand Ferutka, against whom I was warning the confidence officials of the Free Europe Committee in New York during the last several years--but in vain. I am a political exile who left Czechoslovakia after the Communist coup d'etat in February of 1948. With Mr. Ferutka, I am well acquainted personally as well as politically. Mr. Ferutka and I were both members of several exile organizations until December of 1956, when I resigned all posts in the Council of Free Czechoslovakia."

Let me interject here that Mr. Ferdinand Ferutka is head of the Czechoslovakian desk of Radio Free Europe. Continuing with the letter. "Being a Christian Democrat, I never agreed with Mr. Ferutka's socialistic views, neither did I approve of his benevolent attitude toward the Communists in Czechoslovakia before 1948. In particular, I do reject the idea that the Communist tyranny can be crushed in any country behind the iron curtain by replacing it with socialism, of which idea Mr. Ferutka is the most fervent protagonist. Therefore, I feel that it is my duty to support you, my dear sir, in your courageous fight against any tendency which would misrepresent the political views of my people in the eyes of American fighters against Communism. As former president of the Slovak Liberty party, I express my sincere thanks to you on behalf of all my political friends here in exile as well as on behalf of those who are suffering the Communist persecution in Czechoslovakia." Sincerely yours, Dr. Joseph Geishka (sic).

And here is one from the editor of a foreign-language newspaper on Long Island, named Forma. "Your recent articles regarding the pinkos in Radio Free Europe deserve the attention of anyone holding a responsible position in the American propaganda agency. We, the refugees from behind the iron curtain, have been calling to their attention many times the infiltration of these agencies by fellow travelers, but our voice was suppressed and ignored by them. We have been treated in a way which resembles the treatment we received by the Communists at home. We have the impression that these agencies are operated by people who are determined to persecute any expression of genuine anti-Communism. Your disclosure about the situation in the Czechoslovakian desk of Radio Free Europe may be referred to as a pattern for the rest of the nationality divisions of that agency. I am enclosing a few articles published in the organ of the Bulgarian national front in the USA and Canada, which you will find supports your thesis."

And this from the Council for the Liberation of Southern Hungary. Sir: "We heard your comments concerning the Free Europe committee on today's radio program with great satisfaction. Finally you have given a true picture about this organization to the American public. This organization supported from the very beginning only those political groups and leaders of the European emigration which had cooperated with the Communists after 1945 and thereby assisted in the gradual communization of their countries and, at the same time, saved face for the Communist party and enabled them finally to get total control."

These are the people who know what they are talking about because they've had first-hand contact with the Radio Free Europe operation. This is their appraisal without any solicitation from me whether that free Europe operation is a legitimate private enterprise project, as advertised, to extend the message of freedom behind the iron curtain or not. And they say, ladies and gentlemen, that it is not!

In addition to having turned my material on Radio Free Europe and Crusade for Freedom over to the FBI, ladies and gentlemen, as I told you, I also have contacted Chairman James Eastman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, suggesting that he undertake an immediate investigation of the entire operation, everyone involved in it, everyone involved in the original organization, and all corporations and other organizations contributing to the support of it. Senator William Jenner of Indiana, a member of the committee, has informed me that he wants to go over the material with me as soon as he returns to Washington this week end. Senator Stiles Bridges, chairman of the Republican Policy Committee in the Senate, has indicated the same interest on his part. I will of course keep you fully informed on all developments in this connection.

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By

Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M.

31 December 1957

Now it has come to my attention that the paid fund raiser for the Crusade For Freedom, Mr. Jack Patterson, is unhappy about the broadcasts that I have been doing for you and the columns that I have been writing about his organization and Radio Free Europe and affiliated operations which are supported by the crusade. He is particularly annoyed, it seems, about the information I gave you concerning the junket to Munich and Paris back in October, when the crusade chartered a special transatlantic airliner from Pan American Airways and flew some 56 people to Europe for a ten-day free trip.

I want to be perfectly fair to Mr. Patterson and to the crusade and fortunately I have a lengthy rebuttal which he prepared in mimeograph form to distribute to those of the sponsors and directors who might be disenchanted by the facts as I have reported them to you and I want to give you what he has to say in this rebuttal.

In the first place, he takes issue with my statement that the junket stopped for four days of sightseeing in Paris. Mr. Patterson says, "The trip does not spend four days in Paris. The group arrives Friday afternoon, spends most of Saturday at a top-level briefing at SHAPE headquarters, and takes off for New York on Sunday. All expenses are not paid. Group members pay for expenses and all meals other than official dinners and lunches."

Now the first statement is technically true. The actual log of the trip shows that the party arrived in Paris Friday afternoon, as he says. Specifically, it arrived at 12:30 PM Friday afternoon. It is correct also that there was a briefing of sorts at the SHAPE headquarters in Paris the next morning, but it did not take most of the day, as you will see as we go along. The party did leave for New York on Sunday, but it was Sunday night at 8:00 PM. As for the paying of meals and other expenses by the members of the group, I can throw some light on that for you too, which I will do.

I have here with me a copy of the current issue of the National News, the official publication of the Women's auxiliary of the American Legion, in which the lead article is by the president of that organization, a very charming lady by the name of Mrs. J. (Pat) Mildred (Kelley) of Atlanta, Georgia, who was one of those who went along on this junket to Munich personally. This article is her own account of the trip, with her own reactions, and I shall quote from it in context to let you know her impressions. I may add that I did not collaborate with Mrs. (Kelley) in the writing of this article. It is quite her own and I am presenting it as testimony of a distinguished witness who certainly had no reason to be prejudiced at the time she did the writing.

In the first place Mrs. (Kelley) explained that the party was delayed in getting off from New York because of plane trouble and instead of leaving Idlewild Airport, New York, after luncheon on Friday October 11, as scheduled, did not leave until 1:00 PM the next day, Saturday. She says, "This attempt was successful so we were finally aloft and on our merry way. I use the word merry advisedly for it was a jolly, congenial, and friendly group aboard, including the crew, a grand bunch of sports. The party consisted of some fifty men and four ladies. Though very much in the minority, we made our presence known and were treated royally at all times."

She recounts that they stopped at Gander, Newfoundland, for refueling, were fogged out of a regular scheduled landing in London, but the captain offered to route the trip across the Alps to compensate, but the Alps were fogged out too. They got to Munich about mid-morning on Sunday, she says, went to the hotel to freshen up. Then the following, "but who could freshen up when you met your bags coming in as you left your room to meet the deadline for the bus. Who cared? After all we had experienced in getting there, we didn't intend to miss one thing, so we went as we were. This time we were taken to the dock and boarded a boat which immediately got under way across a beautiful lake dotted here and there with picturesque sailboats. We soon docked at the largest of several islands on the lake, we walked up to a very old building which is now a very lovely restaurant inside. Here we enjoyed a delightful luncheon, typical German style, as we looked across the lake at the boats and the colorful fall foliage."

"After luncheon, we were taken in small groups in horse-drawn carriages up the island to the palace of Ludwig II, known as the Mad King of Bavaria. This palace, which is breathtaking in beauty and grandeur, is kept up today as it was in

Ludwig's day." Then a three-paragraph description of the splendor of the castle. Back at the hotel now, "A quick change and we were off to a reception given by the American Consul General and his charming wife. From here we proceeded to the Hotel Regina, where we were to experience delicious food and delightful entertainment, the program being furnished by entertainers from Radio Free Europe. It was a most enjoyable evening. Next morning, our long-awaited inspection of Radio Free Europe."

For three paragraphs more she describes where they were taken, how the people of Radio Free Europe had impressed her, although there is nothing to suggest that she heard any of the broadcasts or could have known what they were saying if she did because they were in foreign languages, of course. Naturally, she took it for granted that the glories of Radio Free Europe were as represented by the people who did the briefing.

"Another interesting evening," Mrs. (Kelley) says, "was spent with the German-American Women's Club. It was in the form of a covered-dish dinner, the German ladies furnished typical German foods, and the American women, wives of Radio Free Europe employees and service personnel, furnished the American dishes, which together contributed to a bounteous and appetizing, beautifully appointed table of food to which we helped ourselves." She next described a train trip to the Communist border on which the party was entertained by the charming wives of several Radio Free Europe employees, and gives her impression of the border.

Finally, after dinner at (Wieden), "We again boarded the train for Munich." The group then goes the next day to Berlin, and I might mention that as an inspection tour of the Radio Free Europe operations, this is interesting because there is no Radio Free Europe installation in Berlin. Mrs. (Kelley) says, "Our first experience here was a pleasant reception at the city hall given by the mayor." It seems to have been Wednesday, because the party spent the next day sightseeing in West Berlin and then going to East Berlin to see the sights there in United States Army buses. On Friday morning, first thing, they got off via their special plane for Paris.

Now since Paris seems to be such a problem for Mr. Patterson, I would like to read you what this good lady has to say about the sweatshop circumstances of the visit to Paris which was only three days instead of four. Please note also

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that there is no Radio Free Europe installation in Paris either.

"All of my life, I've heard that one has not lived until she has visited Paris. Now I have lived. Paris was beautiful, with its buildings of ancient design. Our one official engagement in Paris was at SHAPE. Here we were briefed by various officers on the conditions existing today in Europe and on the deployment of our security forces and bases of operation. Of course, one does not go to Paris without visiting the French noted spots as Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, and the Arch de Triumph. It was my privilege to see each very briefly. We also enjoyed a bit of night life by attending the Lido and the Follies."

Mrs. Kelley then concludes with the party's takeoff for New York at 8:00 PM on Sunday evening. My purpose in this travel log, of course, is to let you decide for yourself whether Mr. Jack Patterson's portrayal of this trip, as primarily an inspection of Radio Free Europe in Munich, with the guest paying everything except the bare round-trip<sup>3</sup> plane fare, is correct or not. And if it is not, why is Mr. Patterson and his Crusade For Freedom putting out this sort of material. Let me quote the gentleman once more: "The cost of the trip is figured into the annual budget of the Crusade For Freedom, paid by private sources."



TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 3 January 1958
TO: O/Gen.Counsel, Attn: Mr. Price		
ROOM NO. 226	BUILDING East	
REMARKS:  LKH JSW CWP JSW  LKH JSW		
FROM: Stanley J. Grogan, Asst. to the DCI		
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